

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's independent **claim 1** is drawn to a record control apparatus comprising: a buffer for storing moving image data belonging to a chapter, storage size detecting means for detecting that the moving image data stored in the buffer increases in size beyond a first size which is a size of a moving image object other than a final moving image object and then reaches a second size which is a size of a moving image object for a seamless connection, final data detecting means for detecting that a final moving image data belonging to the chapter is stored in the buffer, and moving image object output means for retrieving a portion of the moving image data, stored in the buffer, corresponding to the first size from the head of the moving image data, and outputting the portion of the moving image data as the moving image object if it is detected that the moving image data stored in the buffer reaches the second size over the first size, and retrieving a whole moving image data stored in the buffer and outputting the retrieved moving image data as a moving image object if it is detected that the final moving image data belonging to the chapter is stored in the buffer.

Applicant's **claim 1** comprises a particular combination which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. The closest prior art of record, Ogino (US Patent 5,633,976), differs from the claimed invention by not teaching or fairly suggesting

storage size detecting means for detecting that the moving image data stored in the buffer... reaches a second size which is a size of a moving image object for a seamless connection, as well as retrieving a whole moving image data stored in the buffer and outputting the retrieved moving image data as a moving image object if it is detected that the final moving image data belonging to the chapter is stored in the buffer.

Applicant's independent **claims 6-10** each disclose similar limitations as those in claim 1, and are therefore found allowable in view of the explanation set forth in claim 1 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARC DAZENSKI whose telephone number is (571)270-5577. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (571)272-7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Marsha D. Banks-Harold/
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